

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

Most 343-5634

For Release to PM's June 1, 1966

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT PROPOSES REVISED MIGRATORY BIRD
PERMIT REGULATIONS

A streamlining of Federal permit regulations governing the rearing, buying, selling and other uses of migratory birds has been proposed by the Department of the Interior.

Developed by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the revised permit system would reduce administrative procedures without sacrificing control over migratory birds which are protected by the Federal Government under international treaties and legislation.

Specifically, the revision would make seven major changes in the regulations. They would:

- (1) Reduce and simplify record keeping and reporting required by persons holding permits to propagate waterfowl;
- (2) Eliminate annual reports by taxidermist who hold permits to mount or otherwise prepare migratory birds, nests, or eggs;
- (3) Allow the acquisition of captive-reared and properly marked live waterfowl from persons holding propagating permits. No acquisition permit will be required if the birds are for personal use or consumption;
- (4) Require waterfowl propagation permits only if a person wishes to sell or otherwise dispose of captive-reared waterfowl to another person;
- (5) Require the physical marking of captive-reared waterfowl to provide a ready means for distinguishing captive-reared birds from wild birds of the same species, whether alive or dead;
- (6) Provide regulatory controls for captive-reared mallard ducks differing from those applying to all other species, but which will allow continued use of such mallards for present commercial shooting preserve purposes and training of hunting dogs without undue additional cost or interference; and

(7) Discontinue the administrative policy followed since 1942, under which captive-reared mallards and black ducks 3 or more generations removed from the wild are exempt from any regulatory control, even though such birds cannot be readily distinguished from captive-reared birds less than 3 generations removed from the wild or from wild mallards, either dead or alive.

According to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife there are more than 6,000 amateur and commercial game breeders in the United States who hold permits to rear migratory game birds in captivity. Allen T. Studholme, Chief of the Bureau's law-enforcement division, said the revised regulations would reduce record keeping and reporting requirements for such persons. Studholme also said the revisions would drop the number of required propagating permits by 70 to 80 percent. No charge would be made for any permits still required.

The proposed revisions are being published in the Federal Register. Interested persons may submit written comments to the Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240, within 30 days of publication.

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